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Magyar Technika.

CRITICISM OF LOW STANDARDS IN HUNGARIAN INDUSTRY

Comment: The following article, by Karoly Szollossy,

points up the results of industrialization at a forced pace without regard to quality of products and such prerequisites as skilled manpower, industrial organization, etc.

The Hofherr tractors represent the bulk of the tractors operated by the agricultural machine stations. The Hungarian electrical industry, once a European factor, has heretofore been hardly touched by criticism during the Communist regime. 7

As the volume of export trade is expanded, it becomes essential that Hungarian manufactured goods should be of a quality which will permit them to compete with the output of established industrial nations on the world market.

At present, industry uses no consistent and internationally recognized system of inspection, so that it is impossible to classify goods in terms of world market standards. Although this applies particularly to the machine-tool and leather industries, it holds true in many other fields as well. Consequently, there is much disagreement as to whether or not merchandise is of acceptable quality, and scarce or expensive basic materials are frequently squandered where cheaper substitutes would have been adequate.

No importance has been attached to the grading of merchandise, because the standards adopted have been made to reflect industry's present capabilities. Products that would be rated inferior by world market standards are accepted as standard or even premium quality by domestic consumers. Such complacence actually binds industry to mediocre production and removes all incentive to improvement.

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A new set of standards must be evolved with particular emphasis on exceptional quality rating. Even if such a rating is achieved only on a few special orders, its existence will act as a spur and tend to raise averages. The nation must unanimously refuse to accept inferior merchandise. The decrees regulating quality and authorizing the prosecution of those who fail to abide by them must be regidly enforced.

As an aid in evolving a new set of standards, all industrial commodities should be appraised objectively so that their shortcomings may be eliminated. For example:

Hofherr tractors consume too much fuel; the cylinder heads frequently crack; bearings burn out.

Hungarian pumps are obsolete and inefficient, as are the ventilating systems currently being installed in new buildings.

Electric motors are weak; they are not precision built, they perform poorly, and the bearings burn out easily.

Low-grade copper and aluminum resulting from lack of refining equipment reduce the efficiency of electric installations.

Furthermore, the machine-tool industry often embarks on the manufacture of a product before ascertaining whether all the technological prerequisites are at hand. Serial production is begun without preliminary tests to determine the durability and performance of some new make.

These are just a few examples of the problems which confront industry. It goes without saying that unless industry is assured of an uninterrupted supply of first-class materials, and production equipment is serviced regularly, the new standards will be unattainable.

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